



## Arlene Bush Heptinstall

December 16, 1933 - February 26, 2021

Arlene Bush Heptinstall, 87, of Laurel, passed away on Friday, February 26, 2021, at South Central Regional Medical Center.

The visitation and funeral service will take place at the First Baptist Church of Sharon on Saturday, March 6, 2021. The visitation will be at 12 p.m. and the funeral will follow at 1 p.m.

She was born on December 16, 1933, in Jasper County and graduated from Sharon High School in Laurel, MS.

She was preceded in death by her parents Blanche and T. J. Miller, her first husband of 33 years Harold Bush, her second husband of 26 years Calvin Heptinstall, and brothers Thomas Lee Miller, Henry Miller, and James Miller.

She is survived by her three children Dr. Theresa Sanchez, Ernest Bush, and Tommie (Les) Rodgers; stepchildren Joyce (Gordon) Watson and Donna Crooke; grandchildren Jennifer (Nathan) Holly, Kelly (Casey) Buchanan, Laken (Jerry) Phillips, and Zachary and Elisha Rodgers; step grandchildren Jonathan and Christopher Watson; Joseph, Hannah, and Lydia Crooke; great grandchildren Anna Kate and William Holly and Sadie Buchanan; three siblings Annie Ruth Graham, Edna Holifield (Allen Glover), Sydney Miller and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arlene graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics and worked as a homemaker, substitute teacher, church secretary, and was the Sharon Elementary School secretary for 14 years.

Arlene loved people and loved the joy of laughter. She sought the company of others and was more than a school secretary. She was the unofficial school counselor, nurse, and life coach for many children, parents, and teachers.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Sharon where she taught Sunday school, first to young adults and later to adult women. She also enjoyed singing in the choir for a number of years.

Arlene was a gifted seamstress. After her retirement, she became an avid quilter and enjoyed various needle work projects. She enjoyed quilting with the Sharon Quilting Club for many years.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the family urges visitors to wear a mask and social distance at the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the First Baptist Church of Sharon, the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, or the Ellen Young Gunn Steinway Project through the Jones College Foundation.

To sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 6. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Sharon  
4375 Sharon Road  
Laurel, MS 39443

## Service

MAR 6. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Sharon  
4375 Sharon Road  
Laurel, MS 39443

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Arlene Bush Heptinstall.*



March 05, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Arlene Bush Heptinstall.*



March 04, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Arlene Bush Heptinstall.*



March 03, 2021 at 09:25 AM



“ *she was a lovely lady and a joy to be around.....she touched many many lives and was always true to her faith.....she will be missed....but oh what joy in heaven there will be....*

**Sarah Kitchens** - March 02, 2021 at 08:23 PM

KC

“ I am so sorry for the families loss! MS Arlene was always the sweetest and most soft spoken person❤️ I know Momow thought so much of her❤️ I bet they are having a grand time at the feet of Jesus! Can you imagine that conversation?❤️🙏 Praying for you all 🙏



Karan Chastain - March 02, 2021 at 06:00 AM

RL

“ such a sweet lady, a staple of sharon community!! she will be missed!

rhonda long - March 01, 2021 at 07:06 PM

KT

“ Tommie -  
I am so sorry to learn of the passing of your precious Mother. She was always so kind and had such a sweet spirit. Please know that I will be lifting you and your family up in prayer, asking God to sustain you all in the days to come.  
Kimberly Thomson

Kimberly Thomson - March 01, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ Theresa, I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless and keep you safe.

Connie Hoover - March 01, 2021 at 01:25 PM

BE

“ Arlene was a special friend to my family. We loved her and will miss her. When I think of home and church, I always think of her. I loved her sweet smiles and hugs. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you at this time. I know your sweet memories of her will bring you comfort.

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**Barbara Edwards** - March 01, 2021 at 01:01 PM

CW

“ So grateful for the 30 years we have gotten to know her as memaw Arlene. We always looked forward to visiting her and papa Calvin every summer in the deep woods of Mississippi pine and we would sit on the big screened in porch in the two story house and talk and joke and visit and sip on the sweet tea. She always had a smile and kind heart and made us feel at home when we visited and always shared about what God was doing in her life or church. These are the memories that will last a lifetime. Not to mention the good fridge fruitcake she made one time when I was 15 or 16 we visited during Christmas and I finished the whole thing. This is not a goodbye this is a see you later. Love you!

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**Christopher Watson** - February 27, 2021 at 06:59 PM